



Painless Calf Debudding Service and Removal of Extra Teats

Clutha Vets offers a calf debudding service for calves over 2 weeks of age. The technique involves sedating the calves to provide what's called 'Chemical Restraint'.

Sedated calves lie down and go to sleep, which eliminates the need to manually restrain them for debudding. They are done in their calf pens so mixing or moving calves is not necessary. Usually, all that is required is a spare gate so the calves can be cornered in their pen and given the sedative. Sedated calves are injected with local anaesthetic around their buds, which are then burnt off and cauterised using a gas debudder.

Advantages of this system include:

1. **Painless procedure** for the calf which results in a quicker recovery with less rubbing and vocalization
2. No need for manual restraint. Usually a technician will accompany the vet so there is **no labour input from farm staff** at all
3. Provides an opportunity to perform other procedures on the calf while it is sedated. We routinely **cut off extra teats**, repair minor hernias, treat umbilical infections and examine and treat other problems as we go

Calves will start to wake up after about 30 minutes although many will remain lying down for up to an hour as they recover. The sedative is safe and fully reversible at any stage of the procedure.

Preparation

Calves should not be fed within 2 hours either side of being debudded. This is to prevent the calves becoming bloated.

A modified service is available to those who prefer to do their own debudding but still want to provide pain relief for their calves. A vet will come out and inject local anaesthetic into properly restrained calves, e.g. in a race, leaving the farmer or farm worker to continue with the procedure after all the calves have been injected. With good facilities this is a very quick job and will make the debudding process considerably easier and more stress free for the calf and the operator

1. Full Service - includes vet and technician, sedation, local anaesthetic, debudding and other routine jobs such as extra teat removal
2. 'Local Only' service

Call - 03 418 1280 for more information